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Application No.: 09/831,139

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Docket No.: 449122005700

REMARKS

Applicant's provide the following new arguments in response to the Examiner's comments on pages 2 and 3 of the Advisory Action dated December 28, 2005.

*I. The Shimada Reference*

The Examiner cites Shimada as disclosing the recognition operation using "names [that] are selected ...where the ordering is necessary with the most likely match first, the next most likely match next, etc." (referring to col. 5, lns. 1-7; col. 6, lns. 15-25, "the recognition operation assigns a likelihood and the options are presented as an ordered list"). However, the Examiner implies that Shimada implicitly discloses that it is well known in speech recognition that degrees of recognition are determined between an input utterance and potential matches (templates), and cites to Markowitz as proof. The Examiner then concludes that "when multiple candidates result from a recognition operation, these candidates will have an inherent ordering based on degree of match where the candidates with the best match is considered the most likely match. And it follows that if the first best match is not the desired result, then the next match is now the most likely candidate." Applicant's respectfully disagree.

While it is indeed true that degrees of recognition are determined between an input utterance and potential matches, as used in the conventional art, there is simply no disclosure in either Shimada as to how the candidates are characterized in order to determine the degree of recognition. Rather, Shimada simply states that a user can call up a lower candidate by entering a voice command "NEXT ONE." That is, when the name of the first-place candidate recognized is different from the desired name, the user can call up a number associated with the name of the lower place candidate by entering a command. (Shimada, col. 5, lns. 15-20). Again, there is no discussion of ordering, degrees of recognition, probabilities or otherwise.

The Examiner, however, states that the mere fact a recognition occurs means that there is inherently some form or ordering or degree of recognition. A review of Markowitz shows different methods of voice recognition- template matching, acoustic-phonetic and stochastic processing.

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While a degree of recognition and/or ordering may indeed occur as a result of the methods applied, there is no disclosure of the recognition as required by the claimed invention. Specifically, Shimada (and Markowitz) fails to disclose a recognition probability of the at least one further acoustic object is less than the recognition probability of the previously output acoustic object, but greater than the recognition probability of other acoustic objects.

*II. No reason for Motivation to Combine the applied References*

Applicant's maintain the arguments presented in the previously filed response.

*III. Conclusion*

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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